

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5898

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0349

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MY, TH

SUBJECT: GOM-RTG BORDER SECURITY COOPERATION

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 211 (DTG 100845Z JAN 77)

(B) DAO BANGKOK 130715Z JAN 77 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER TO REF A, JAN 13 LOCAL PRESS CARRIED REUTER ITEM
DATELINED BANGKOK JAN 12 CITING "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" TO
EFFECT THAI AND MALAYSIAN FORCES ARE PLANNING A BIG JOINT
OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN SOUTHERN THAILAND.
ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, GOM AND RTG FORCES ARE EXPECTED
TO WORK TOGETHER IN BLOCKING COMMUNIST ESCAPE ROUTES FROM
AN AREA WHERE THAI ARTILLERY AND AIRCRAFT "HAVE BEEN POUNDING
THE JUNGLE SLOPES OF THE BANTHAD MOUNTAIN RANGE WHERE HUNDREDS
OF TERRORISTS ARE HOLED UP". THE NEW MILITARY-BACKED
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GOVERNMENT IN BANGKOK IS MORE SYMPATHETIC THAN PREVIOUS
CIVILIAN REGIME TO NEEDS OF MALAYSIAN FORCES TO "HIT
AT CPM GUERRILLAS INSIDE THAILAND," IT NOTED. REPORT
ALSO CITED UNIDENTIFIED "INFORMED SOUCES" TO EFFECT
INTENSIVE JOINING THAI-MALAYSIAN OPERATIONS ARE BEING
PLANNED AGAINST CPM TERRORISTS IN DADAO DISTRICT OF
SONGKHLA PROVINCE "AND POSSIBLE IN SOME OTHER AREAS."

2. COMMENT: THESE NEWS ITEMS OBVIOUSLY REFLECT LEAKS FROM CONSULTATIONS ON GETTING JOINING COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS OFF THE GROUND ALONG LINES OF REF B. MALAYSIANS ARE ITCHING TO ATTACK HERETOFORE INVIOABLE THAI BASE AREAS OF VARIOUS MALAYSIAN COMMUNIST GROUPS, AND AIRATT UNDERSTANDS RMAF HAS ASSIGNED SEVERAL AIRCRAFT FOR PROJECTED OPERATIONS ON THAI SIDE. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT IT APPEARS RELATIVE GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY BETWEEN THAI COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS AND MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS -- REVOLUTIONARY FACTION (CPM-RF) OPERATES OUT OF SADAO IN BORDER AREAS OF NORTHERN MALAYSIAN STATES OF PERLIS AND KEDAH -- MAY PROVIDE THAIS ADDED INDUCEMENT ALLOW MALAYSIAN MILITARY OPS IN THIS AREA. ADDITIONALLY THERE ARE INDICATIONS SOME LEFTIST THAI STUDENTS MAY HAVE JOINED CPM GUERRILLAS IN THIS AREA. WHILE TO MALAYSIANS CPM-RF IS THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT OF THREE CPM GROUPS AND GOM IS MOST INTERESTED IN CLEARING OUT BASE AREAS OF CPM-CC AND CPM-ML IN THE BETONG SALIENT, GOM MAY FEEL COOPERATION ON THIS IS NECESSARY FIRST STEP FOR GETTING RTG AGREE TO ATTACKS ON GROUPS IN BETONG. DILLON

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